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ABSTRACT

This is the fourth of a set of four books containing 24 examples of the Tanaina art of storytelling. They are intended for use in a bilingual education setting for competent speakers of Tanaina Athabascan who have knowledge of the writing system. The stories in this volume are true historical accounts of events that occurred in the wars with the Eskimos to the south. The stories are presented as they were told by the storytellers and are transcribed in the Tanaina practical orthography. Each one contains an interlinear word-by-word literal translation and is followed by a free English translation. A chart of the vowels and consonants of the Tanaina alphabet is appended. (AMH)

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DENA'INA SUKDU'A IV

NANUTSET K'UGHUN NIL T'QUL'AN QEGH NUHQULNIX

Nuqulnegen:

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K'echegen:

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TANAINA STORIES IV

STORIES OF THE WARS THEY HAD BEFORE OUR TIME

Told by Antone Evan

Transcribed, translated,
and edited by
Joan M. Tenenbaum

Cover illustration by Melvin Trefon

A production of the
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STORIES OF THE WARS THEY HAD BEFORE OUR TIME

This group of four books called Dena'ina Sukdu'a contains 24 examples of the Tanaina art of storytelling. Volume I contains stories called sukdu; Volume II contains Raven stories; Volume III contains mountain stories; and Volume IV contains war stories. Every story in this series shows the beauty and richness of the Tanaina language, Tanaina culture and the tradition of storytelling.

The stories in this volume are not, strictly speaking, sukdu. They are, rather, true historical accounts of events that occurred in the wars with the Eskimos to the south. There are many such stories; only a few are printed here. These stories recount the battles and ambushes between the Tanaina people and their neighbors. The

individual heroes of each side are remembered and their feats recounted. The stories paint a very vivid picture of the battles, and the listener can clearly feel the pride with which the Tanaina people regard their heroes.

The stories were tape-recorded in Nondalton and transcribed and translated with the help of various Tanaina people in Nondalton. The transcriptions are in the Tanaina practical orthography (see p. 86). The stories have an interlinear, word-by-word literal translation, and also a free English translation following each story. The stories are printed exactly as told by each storyteller, with the exception of eliminating false starts of words and hesitations where they occurred. To my knowledge, this is the first time the stories have ever been written down in the Tanaina language.

A great many people have made possible the preparation of these stories. I extend my greatest thanks to Antone Evan and Pete Trefon, Sr., for the long and patient hours they spent with me transcribing and translating the stories. I also wish to thank Michael Krauss and Jim Kari for their constant encouragement and suggestions; Harvey Pitkin and John Attinasi for the skills which made this work possible; Melvin Trefon; Eliza Jones; and Jane McGary for her assistance in translating the stories and typing and preparing the manuscript.

I also gratefully acknowledge support for this research from grants from the National Institute of Education, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Mental Health.

Lastly, I thank the storytellers themselves for sharing with me this very beautiful and very precious part of Tanaina culture. They are the ones who have made it possible for me to present these stories to the Tanaina people as a lasting gift in the form of this book.

CHIN'AN

Joan M. Tenenbaum
Fairbanks, Alaska
April 1976

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TS'ANHDGHULYAL HTSAST'A HYEGH NUQULNIX I

Nuqulnegen Antone Evan

Ts'anhdghulyal	hyegh	nuqulnix
Ts'anhdghulyal	about him	they used to tell stories

htsast'a.	Dutna	ela	la'u	k'ughun
a long time ago.	Eskimos	with	always	war

nil	t'qul'an ghu.	Ts'anhdghulyal gun
with each other	they used to have.	Ts'anhdghulyal

Dena'ina	ezhge'a	gheli	ghila'.	Ey ki
Tanaina	hero	really	he was.	Once

yun'e	Qizhgeh	gu ey	hdalts'i.
up the lake	at Kijik	there	they were staying.

Ki q'u	hva	italqun	idi ela	k'ughun
Once	on them	it got light	when	war

ela	Dutna	guna	qegh	hnidatl'.	T'anch'q'u
with	Eskimos	the	to them	they came.	All

n'ushna	ghuna	t'anch'q'u	ts'ilten
men	the	all	bow and arrow

qevteh	hnudilt'a'.	Nil'iqu	k'ehteldex ghu.
among them	they had.	At each other	they were shooting arrows.

T'qet'an t'qet'an ch'q'u.	Ts'anhdghulyal
They kept on and kept on.	Ts'anhdghulyal

ghunhdi	y'yeh	ztan.	Idi ela
as for him	inside	he was lying.	And then

hyegh	ndunu'iltlet lu.
to him	they ran back in.

"Qil. Nach' gheli q'u qudeɬ.
 "No good! Towards right they're coming.
 us

nen kitsa qeveɬ tiniyux," qeyɬni ɬu.
 You next to them go out," they told him.

Ts'anhdghulyaɬ gun dinughettutɬ'.
 Ts'anhdghulyaɬ slipped on his boots.

K'duheɬ ghini yeɬ niɬnughasdyuch'.
 His war club he tied it to his waist.

Dets'iɬtena nu'ighedneq. Qeɬ tiniyu.
 Bow and arrow he took. To them he went out.

Qiqu k'teldex. Ghu t'qeɬ'an ch'q'u.
 At them he was shooting arrows. He kept on.

Dutna ghuna hyiqu k'teldex.
 Eskimos the at him they were shooting arrows.

Hyiqu k'teldex hnuyu ts'iɬten
 At him they were shooting arrows when arrows

ghin yiɬyeɬ ch'q'u. Q'ench' qiqu
 the he kept grabbing them. Back at them

nuyteldex. Qeɬ nuyildix ɬu.
 he shot them back. He was hitting them with their own arrows.

Hnuyu Dutna guna Ts'anhdghulyaɬ ghun
 Then Eskimos the Ts'anhdghulyaɬ

qit'ahyidni ezhge nlanich' iqech' it hnuyu
 they knew him a great hero as being and so

Dutna guna q'ench' nuhtaldatl'.
 Eskimos the back they turned.

Q'ench' nuhtaldatl' hnuyu Ts'anhdghulyaɬ gun
 Back they turned when Ts'anhdghulyaɬ

htl'uyeh sheidultex ch'q'u qiqu
behind them he ran and at them

k'teldex qiqu k'teldex.
he was shooting at them he was shooting arrows.
arrows

Ghu t'qel'an ch'q'u q'u shihnilt'a'.
He kept on until he killed enough.

Htl'i sheidaltuk'. Htl'i sheidaltuk'
Up to them he ran. Up to them he ran

ch'q'u k'duheł ghini ela hqeydenghalghel.
and his war club with he started swinging his
club.

Ghu t'qel'an ch'q'u t'anch'q'u qaq'a nik'nilt'eq'.
He kept on until all he clubbed them all.

Ts'ilt'an yan idu idi ela t'eyłni lu,
One man only left when he told him,

"Nenhdi ngayeh nunindyu ha' it da
"As for you your village you go back when

shegh nuhtghilnix. 'Iqech' dnanluq,'
about me you will tell them 'Thus he did to us,'
the story.

sheł dghinił. Q'u ki q'uhdi qich'a
about me you will say. As for the next time more

dna'ilt'ahdi q'u ki q'u shegh nu'ihdał da,"
lots more again to me you guys come
back again,"
yełni lu. Dutna ghun vech' k'idensex
he told him. Eskimo the towards him he nodded his head

ch'yan lu t'an.
that's all he did.

Q'uyehdi ndunu'ilgguk ch'q'u
Then he went back inside and

dich'a nadaltutl' ha'. Qana'ilghel lu
he took off his boots. He lay back down

Ts'anhdghulyaɪ gun.
Ts'anhdghulyaɪ that.

Dach' hyegh nuqulnix Ts'anhdghulyaɪ
Thus about him they used to tell Ts'anhdghulyaɪ
a story

gev'ezhge'a yeghila' htsast'a.
their great hero he was long ago.

A long time ago they used to tell stories about Ts'anhdghulyaŁ. The Indians and the Eskimos always used to wage war with each other. Ts'anhdghulyaŁ was the greatest Tanaina hero. At one time they were living up Lake Clark at Kijik. At dawn one morning the Eskimos came there to attack them. All the men were armed with bows and arrows. They were shooting arrows at each other. They kept on and kept on. As for Ts'anhdghulyaŁ, he was lying down inside. They ran back in to him.

"It's no good! They're heading right for us! You go out there and challenge them," they said to him.

Ts'anhdghulyaŁ slipped on his boots. He tied his war club at his waist and took his bow and arrow. He went out to them.

He was shooting arrows at them. He kept on. The Eskimos were shooting arrows at him. He kept grabbing the arrows they shot at him and shooting them back at the Eskimos. He was hitting them with their own arrows.

The Eskimos knew Ts'anhdghulyaŁ as a great hero, and so they turned back. When they turned back, Ts'anhdghulyaŁ ran behind them, shooting arrows at them. He kept on until he had killed enough. He ran up to them. He ran up to them and started swinging his war club at them. He kept on until he had clubbed them all.

When only one man was left, Ts'anhdghulyaŁ told him, "As for you, when you get back to your village tell them my story. 'He did that to us,' you will say about me. As for the next time, double up your forces and come back to me again," he told him. The Eskimo nodded his head; that's all he did.

And then Ts'anhdghulyaŁ went back inside. He took off his boots and he lay back down.

And that's the story they used to tell about Ts'anhdghulyaŁ, the greatest hero ever back then.

TS'ANHGDGHULYAŁ HYEGH NUQULNIX II

Nuqulnegen Antone Evan

Gini k'i hyegh nuqulnix.
This too about him they used to tell.

Ts'anhdghulyaŁ shtunyu ha'. La'u
Ts'anhdghulyaŁ he used to hunt. Always

t'ghet'an. Ki q'u shtunyu idi eŁa
he used to do that. Once he was out hunting when

nutihna Dutna Łu ngħi'an. Ts'anhdghulyaŁ ghun
two Eskimos he saw them. Ts'anhdghulyaŁ

ghu yegħi'an ch'q'u hnuyididni'. Dutna ghuna
as soon as he saw him he recognized him. Eskimo that

qevqeshqa Jilughun yen ki q'u ts'ilt'an
their head man Jilughun him another one man

veŁ nugheyuŁ Łu. Dutna ghuna
with him was walking. Eskimos the

ghu qeyghī'an hnuyu hnuyididni'.
as soon as they saw him they recognized him.

Ts'anhdghulyaŁ ghun hk'uch'
Ts'anhdghulyaŁ away from them

hch'a sheŁdaniltuk'. Qehdnalgguk
he started running. They started running after him

q'uyehdi. Nuqehdnulggex ch'q'u nuqehdnulggex.
then. They keep on running and running.

Ch'q'u Ts'anhdghulyaŁ gun dets'ilt'an gun
And then Ts'anhdghulyaŁ his own partner

t'eyl'ni lu "Jilughun vets'ilt'an gun
he told him "Jilughun his partner

chidghilnah ilay." Ts'anhdghulyaḷ gunhdi
don't kill him." Ts'anhdghulyaḷ as for him

Jilughun gheli q'u dnalgguk lu.
Jilughun himself he started chasing.

Huleḷ qilan nih qel sheḷdiltex.
Swamp there was wherever he ran out in it.

Hnuyu Jilughun gun vinli qitulal hqugh
Then Jilughun water just like it was

taltlet. Elnen yi ltlet. Iqil ki q'u
he dives. Ground inside it he jumps. Somewhere else

qa diltlet. Hch'a nasheḷdeltex.
he jumps out of the ground. He starts running again.

Iqech' ghu t'eyl'an t'eyl'an ch'q'u. Ghu
Thus he kept on and he kept on. Wherever

qa tidultleḷ yidni ghu yeh q'u sheḷduḷtex.
he'll come up he thinks that direction he will run.

Hnuyu vejaghch'en gu elnen a diltlet.
Then in front of him ground he jumps out of it.

Hnuyu Ts'anhdghulyaḷ gun yilyeḷ.
Then Ts'anhdghulyaḷ he grabbed him.

Yilyeḷ ch'q'u elnen ghu ninultlet ghu
He grabbed him and ground from running in

t'anch'q'u tak'inshleq'a ela qut'an k'i
all mud with human even

nch'u qilt'an. Vinli qilan yeḷ ni'ilgguk.
he didn't resemble. Water there was he took him.

"Vinli eł nan k'nildah," yełni lu.
 "Water with face wash it," he told him.

Jilughun gun nan k'nuldaq lu idi eła
 Jilughun face he washed it when

hnuyididni'. Jilughun gheli lu nlan.
 he recognized him. Jilughun really he was.

"Jilughun inlan dida?" yełni lu.
 "Jilughun are you?" he said to him.

Vech' dek'idensex lu. Q'uyehdi
 Towards him he nodded his head. Then

Ts'anhdghulyał gun k'duheł ghini eła
 Ts'anhdghulyał his war club with

yehdenghaghilghel. Chiydałyuq.
 he hit him. He killed him.

Ki q'u qeveł nuyuyulen ghun ey ghu
 Then with him the one who was walking there

hch'a shełdaniłtuk'. "Ts'ilt'an ki
 he started running. "One man

chidghilnah ilay kidi," yełni lu Ts'anhdghulyał gun.
 don't kill him," he told him Ts'anhdghulyał.

Q'uyehdi dets'ilt'an yiqu nutasdyu.
 Then his partner after him he walked back.

Yegh nu'idyu idi eła ts'ilt'an Jilughun
 To him he came back when the man Jilughun

luhniyun ts'ilt'an ghun ey ki lu
 the one who was walking one man the there he was
 with him

yiten ki lu. Q'uyehdi ey ghu Jilughun
 he was holding him. Then there Jilughun

ghu chiydalyuggen ghun qech' ey qeyl
where the one who killed him to there with him

yegh nin'ilgguk lu.
to him they brought him back.

"Gun di Jilughun shina," qeylni lu.
"This one is Jilughun," they told him.

Dutna ghun qevch' dek'idensex lu.
Eskimo the towards them he nodded his head.

Ts'anhdghulyał gun t'eylni lu: "Ngayeh
Ts'anhdghulyał told him: "Your village

nunindyu it dahdi Ts'anhdghulyał ghun
you go back when Ts'anhdghulyał

Jilughun chiydalyuq sheł dghini da.
Jilughun he killed him about me tell them.

Qeveł nuhtghilnek t'anch'q'u,"
To them you will tell the story everything,"

yełni lu. Dutna ghin qevch' dek'idensex.
he told him. Eskimo the towards them he nodded his
head.

Qeynudghichet q'uyehdi nuqulnekni.
They let him go so he can tell the story.

Q'uyehdi qeych'a na'ilgguk q'uyehdi.
Then they left him then.

Dach' k'i hyegh nuqulnix
Thus another about him they used to tell a story

Ts'anhdghulyał gun Dutna ezhge'a chiydalyuq.
Ts'anhdghulyał Eskimo hero he killed him.

They used to tell this, too, about him. Ts'anhdghulyaŁ used to go hunting. He always used to do that. Once when he was out hunting he saw two Eskimos. As soon as Ts'anhdghulyaŁ saw him, he recognized one of them. That Eskimo was Jilughun, their head man, and another man along with him. As soon as the Eskimos saw Ts'anhdghulyaŁ, they recognized him.

Ts'anhdghulyaŁ started running away from them. They started running after him. They kept on running and running.

And then Ts'anhdghulyaŁ told his own partner, "Don't kill Jilughun's partner." As for himself, he started chasing Jilughun.

Wherever there was swamp, Jilughun ran. Then he dove just as if it had been water. He went underground. He jumped out of the ground somewhere else. He started running again. Thus he kept on and kept on. Ts'anhdghulyaŁ ran in whatever direction he thought Jilughun would come up. Then Jilughun jumped out of the ground right in front of him. Then Ts'anhdghulyaŁ grabbed him. He grabbed him, and Jilughun was so muddy from running in the ground that he didn't even resemble a human being. Ts'anhdghulyaŁ took him where there was water.

"Wash your face with water," he told him. After Jilughun washed his face, Ts'anhdghulyaŁ recognized him. He was really Jilughun.

"Are you Jilughun?" he asked him. Jilughun nodded his head. Then Ts'anhdghulyaŁ hit him once with his war club. He killed him.

Then the guy who was with Jilughun started running. "Don't kill that man," Ts'anhdghulyaŁ told his partner. Then he walked back after his partner. He came back to him and there he was, holding on to the man who had been walking with Jilughun. Then they brought him back to where Ts'anhdghulyaŁ had killed Jilughun.

"This is Jilughun," they told him. The Eskimo nodded his head. Ts'anhdghulya† told him, "When you go back to your village, tell them that I, Ts'anhdghulya†, killed Jilughun. Tell them the whole story," he told him. The Eskimo nodded his head toward them. Then they let him go so he could tell the story: they left him.

And that's another story they used to tell about Ts'anhdghulya†: how he killed Jilughun, the Eskimo hero.

TS'ANHDGHULYAŁ HYEGH NUQULNIX III

Nuqulnegen Antone Evan

Ki q'u	Ts'anhdghulyał	hyegh
Another time	Ts'anhdghulyał	about him

nuqulnix.	Yinch'en	Nilavena
they used to tell.	Across	Iliamna Lake

ghu dghiliq' yeh	shtunyu.	Ts'ilt'an	n'ushen
up on the mountain	he was hunting.	One	man

vel	nugheyuł.	Shtunqeyu.	T'qet'an.
with him	was walking.	They were hunting.	They kept on.

Hełch'	tułkun	iq' qit'a.	Yighuda
In the evening	it would rain	it looked like.	So

tsat'uh	qilan.	T'qidaghilıkhugh
a cave under an overhanging rock	there was.	It was big

tsat'uhıu.	Yunit yunit	gheli sht'a	qaqiltan.
the cave.	Up, up inside	really far	they went to bed.

Hva	nughilıghatl'.
On them	it got dark.

Ey ki	nda'ich'	shuq'u	qit'ahqidaznit
And	how	I wonder	did they find out

Dutna	guna	ey ghu	tsat'uh	nılhdaticx ghu?
Eskimos	the	there	in the cave	they were camping?

Hghu hghazdatl' ha'	q'udi shlahdi	italqun
They all came there	barely	daylight

q'ut'un	Ts'anhdghulyał gun	ts'aghezel
in the morning	Ts'anhdghulyał	he was waking up

idi eia da'u k'itl' yeduhdulen gheli
and then just he heard packing up of clothes

uch'en qech'a. Qut'ana qenadelghesh
outdoors from there. People they were talking

shuqel'i. Nik'uchidichet idi eia
quietly. He lifted his head up and then

gevdakaq' ghu tsat'uh ghu t'qidaghilukh
in their doorway of the cave big

ki lu Dutna guna nihnidatl' ha'.
there were Eskimos the they all crowded in.

tets' dakaq' ghu nilghu gheli
Spears in the doorway one next to another right

ndungeydaɬ'u ha'. Ki nih ghu tik'ulggux
they had them sticking in. Some way to get out

hqisen.
there wasn't.

Dets'ilt'an ghun t'eyɬni lu Ts'anhdghulyaɬ gun
His partner he told him Ts'anhdghulyaɬ

"Qint'ah q'u hch'a gheshyu q'a t'ghit'an da,"
"You try so I might get away try your best,"

yelni lu.
he told him.

Ts'anhdghulyaɬ gun k'duheɬ ghini
Ts'anhdghulyaɬ his war club

dnuydenghalyuch' ch'q'u dets'iltana
he tied it to his belt and his bow and arrow

nu'ighedneq. Hniɬ'an ey ghu tets'
he took. He looked at them there spears

qineit'uh. Ghu t'qel'an ch'q'u
he clubs them in the head. He kept on until

hnihdaniġen.
he killed them all.

Q'u hnihdaniġen ey ghu tsat'uh
After he killed them all there cave

ghu ey nin'ilgguk. Idi eġa qeyts'ilt'an ghun ki
there he walked back. Then his partner

qil qeyghanichet. Q'uyehdi nutasdyu
they had killed him. Then he started for home

ch'q'u nu'idyu idi eġa nuġelnek.
and he came back when he told the story.
home

"Dutna iġech' dach' dnaqiluġ ha'.
"Eskimos that is the way they did to us.

Ey ghu sheġ ġuhniiyun ghun ki
There with me the one who walked him

qil qeyghanichet," qelni ġu.
they killed him," he told them.

Dach' k'i hyegh nuġulnix
Thus also about him they used to tell

Ts'anhdghulyaġ gun.
Ts'anhdghulyaġ.

They used to tell another story about Ts'anhdghulyaŁ. He was hunting on the mountain across Iliamna Lake. One man was with him. They were hunting. They kept on. In the evening it looked like it was going to rain. So they found a cave under an overhanging rock. It was a big cave. They went to bed way up inside it. It got dark.

I wonder how the Eskimos every found out they were camping in the cave? In the morning when it was barely daylight they all came there. As Ts'anhdghulyaŁ was waking up, he heard the noise of clothes being packed up outdoors. People were talking quietly. He lifted his head up and in the big doorway of the cave he saw the Eskimos all crowding in there. They had their spears sticking in the doorway, one right next to another. There was no way to get out.

Ts'anhdŁ told his partner, "You try your best to get away."

Ts'anhdghulyaŁ tied his war club to his belt and took his bow and arrow. He looked at the spears sticking in the doorway. There was a very little opening above them. He kicked off from the back wall and he jumped right over the spears sticking in the doorway. He landed behind them.

After he landed behind them he clubbed a few of the Eskimos with his war club and then he took off running. He ran a little way. And then he turned around quickly to face them, and he started shooting arrows at them with his bow. He kept on until the Eskimos started running away from him. Then he started chasing them. He kept running behind them and when he caught up with them he clubbed them in the head. He kept on until he killed them all.

After he killed them all he walked back to the cave. They had killed his partner. So he started for home and when he came back home he told the story.

"That is the way the Eskimos did to us. They killed the one who was walking with me," he told them.

This too they used to tell about Ts'anhdghulyaŁ.

TS 'ANHDGHULYAL HYE GH NUQULNIX IV

Nugulnegan Antone Evan

Nutihna	degkh'isna	gevts'ilt'an	k'i
Two	women	their husband	even

qisen.	Ts'ilt'an	ghun	vegguya	qizdlan.
they had none.	One woman		baby	she had.

Ts'anhdghulyaihdī hya dani'un ch'q'aynigen ghun.
Ts'anhdghulyaɬ they named him baby the.

Ghu	qut'an	ghelah	ghu	ts'utl'
As	man	he was becoming	as	baby cradle

a	hyiɫdu ghu.	Nilq'a	k'izhagi	qeyɫ
in	they kept him.	On both sides	knives	with him

dazdlu	vech'en	gheli	vets'ixch'en
they had them lying	on his sides	right	next to his
in it			skin

geyl dazdlu ha'. Q'ut'unteh
with him they had them lying in it. In the mornings

ełkun ghu qeych'a hdessex ha'
when it was raining they took off his clothes and

k'it'et' tiqeylchesh ch'q'u ye'uh
naked they took him outside and outside

elkun ghu tiyiq'
when it was raining in the water on the leaves

nuhyult'eh. Ghu t'qeyl'ih
they swing him around. That's what they did to him

ch'q'u yi iqech' q'u nuqeyłtih.
and that is how they used to wash him.

Ndunuqeyghelket	ch'q'u	yus	idazq'en
They brought him back in	and	out	the fire was
			burning
ghu hnishila	ghi'u	yi q'	ni'ch'
where a big flame	there was	inside it	back and forth
nunuqeytelt'eh.	Ghu t'qeyl'ih	ch'q'u.	
they threw him.	That's what	they did to him.	
Yi iqech' q'u	nugeynilqix.	Iqech' ghu	
That is how	they used to warm him up.	That's what	
t'qeyl'an	ch'q'u	qut'an	ezdlan ha'.
they used to do	while	adult	he became.
Ghu luhsheldaltuk'	hnuyu	ts'ilten	
When he started running around	when	bow and arrow	
nihdi k'i	qeyqeldih.	K'duhel	ghin k'i
and everything	they used to	War club	that too
	teach him.		
chik'a	gguya	iqech'	dalchini
wooden	little	thus	made
			hy'endenghaltl'in
			ha'.
			they had it tied to
K'eldunteh	uch'en	chik'a	duk'ehdetix.
Sometimes	outdoors	poles	him.
			they put up
			hurdles.
Yi ghini	vejen	nultlet	qeylni ha'.
Those	over it	to keep jumping	they told him.
K'jen	nultlet ha'	iqech' ghu	t'qeyl'an
Over it	he keeps jumping	that's what	they used to
			do to him
iqech' ghu t'an	ch'q'u	qut'an	ezdlan ha'.
that's the way it was	and	adult	he became.
Q'u gheli	qut'an	ezdlan ha'.	Hluzhun
Pretty soon	adult	he became.	Ten
qents'eghuyi	veq'di	veheya	hdazdlan.
seven	added on	his winters	he was.

Idi eia ezhge gheli ezdlan ha'. Qut'ana
Then hero great he became. People

yich'a ezhge nlan ha' dyuq.
better than them hero he was he became.

Ey ki lu nak'uch' qenadelgheshna
There were different from us people who talk

Dutna hyegh hnucheghadulyaxen lu ghu qeynalynen ha'.
Eskimos they didn't know they were raising a son who would
make them cry.

Dutna k'i nch'uhdi chiqeydilnil. Udi
Eskimos even didn't ever kill him. He

yeh q'uhdi q'et'en ezdlan ha'. Udi yeh q'uhdi
by himself old man he became. He by himself

nihghanigats'. Yen shughu Ts'anhdghulyaɪ
he died of old age. He's the one Ts'anhdghulyaɪ

la'u hyegh nuqulnexen.
always about him the one they used to tell stories
about.

There were two women who had no husband. One woman had a baby. They gave the baby the name "Ts'anhdghulyał."

While he was growing up, they kept him in a cradle. On each side of him, right next to his skin, they had knives lying in the cradle. In the mornings when it was raining, they took off all his clothes and they took him naked outside in the rain; they swung him around in the wet leaves. That's what they did to him; that's how they washed him.

Then they used to bring him back in and throw him back and forth through the high flames of the fire. That's what they did to him. That is how they used to warm him up. That's what they did to him while he was growing up.

When he started running around they used to train him with bow and arrow. Also, they tied to him a little wooden war club made like a big club. Sometimes they put up hurdles made of poles outdoors. They told him to keep jumping over them. He kept jumping back and forth over them. That's what they used to do to him. That's the way he grew up.

Pretty soon he became an adult. He was seventeen years old. Then he became a great hero, the greatest hero of all the people.

There were Eskimos, people who talk differently from us. They didn't know that the women were raising a son who would bring them sorrow.

The Eskimos never killed him. He grew to be an old man, and all by himself he died of old age. He was Ts'anhdghulyał, the one they always used to tell about.

TS'ANHDGHULYAŁ Q'ET'EN EZDLAN HYEGH NUQULNIX

Nuqulnegen Antone Evan

Ey gu Ts'anhdghulyaŁ gun nt'i iqech'
Here Ts'anhdghulyaŁ well that way

la'u k'ughun niŁ t'qul'an ghu Dutna
always war with each they used to have Eskimos
 other
guna nch'u nih nda t'ehyilil. Iqech' q'u
the not anything they did to him. So

q'et'en gheli ezdlan ha'. Qak'etets' ha'.
old man really he became. He was using a cane.

Hvaya deg'h'a shla ndalkits ha'.
Rabbit parka little he wore.

Ki q'u shtu'idaina idi eŁa
Once the ones who were going out hunting when

"NheŁ tgheshyuni," qełni Łu.
"With you guys let me go," he said to them.

"Ggagga qenaga qandadgheshdnexni," qełni Łu.
"Brown bear voice I want to hear it again," he told them.

"Aa'," qeyłni. Qeł tazyu.
"Yes," they said. With them he went.

Dghiliq' qeył nughedeł.
On the mountain with him they were walking around.

Ch'q'u ggagga qeył ghi'an nutiha
And then brown bear with him they saw two

vayush qilani. Ggagga qeył ghi'an.
cubs there were. Brown bear with him they saw.

Ggagga	ghini	duntda	nnu'ilkugh.
Bear cubs	the	their mother	they were just as big.

Tuq'i ghunlan ch'q'u	nifen ilkugh	gheli.
All three of them	were the same size as	really.
	each other	

Shik'qidaghiset	hyegh	nidalggezh.	Idi eia
Far enough	to it	they walked.	And then

"Ey gu qech' q'u shnił'an da," qełni lu.
"Here from watch me," he told them.

Detets'a ghini	diniq'	nidalggat ha'.
His spear	his back	he put it across.

Yiten ha'. Yech'. hch'a niyu.
He held it. Toward it he started off.

Gheyul gheyul ch'q'u. Daghihggech' gheli gu
He kept walking and walking. Close right there

yegh	ni'ilgguk.	Hnuyu	ggagga	qit'avvyidaznit.
to it	he walked up.	Then	bear	found out he was there.

Vuntda	ghini	veĭ yetalzet.	Veĭ yetalzet
Its mother	the	she charged him.	She charged him

hnuyu	yegeŋq'a	k'dghilguk	tets'	ghini	ela.
when	in her throat	he speared her	spear	the	with.

Vel luhghaldalen	hnuyu	yeq'ach'ah
The bear tumbled around	when	under her arm

gech'	ki q'u	yizgget.	Yizgget	hnuyu
towards	again	he stabbed her.	He stabbed her	when

tets'a	ghini	ełneq'	geydałqex
his spear	the	in the ground	he stuck it in

ch'q'u yach'en yejen gheltlet ch'q'u
and then on the other side over her he jumped and

yach'en qech' ki q'u yizgget.
on the other side towards again he stabbed her.

Veyush	ghin	ki q'u	nutiha	ghunlan	ch'q'u
Cubs	the	next	both	of	them

yi	ki q'u	chidghilt'ik'	Ts'ełq'i	ghini
them	too	he killed them.	One	the

undadi ghu chiydaɣyuq hnuyu ey q'u
the last one when he killed it when right there

yach' qidulen. Ghuna geych' tazdatl'.
he fell over. The others towards him they started
walking.

Hyegh nidatl' idi eġa ggagga ghini
To him they came when bears the

qeq' diltan lu. Ts'anhdghulya! gun
were lying here and there. Ts'anhdghulya!

ey ghu	kanastan.	Hvaya
there	he was kneeling supported on his	Rabbit
	elbows.	

deg'h'a	yan	ey ghu	dghilkits.
parka	by	there	was lying.
	itself		

Q'u nushich'hulchin idi eġa ggana'ilchet.
He got his wind back and then he got up.

Veɪ	nuyudeɪna	ghuna	"Ninɪ'an
With him	those walking	them	"Take a good look

q'udi gu	chin'an gheli	ggagga	ghini
now	thank you very much	brown bear	the

qenaga qandadgheshdnik. Iqech' dach' shughu
voice I heard once more. That was

dgheshnahni	yinszen	nlugha	nih nda
my last wish	I want	not yet	anything

dyeshnagh hnuyu. Ey ghu htl'eghhdi
doesn't happen to me. After this

nch'u qenaga qanatdezgheshdrik.
never his voice I'll never hear it again.

Undat chinudgheht'ik'i ishi,"
The last time for my killing bears it is,"

qelni lu. Q'uyehdi qeyl nu'itdatl'.
he told them. So with him they came home.

Ey gu Ts'anhdghulyal gun nt'i nch'u
Here Ts'anhdghulyal well never

nih nda t'ehyilil hq'u udi yeh q'u
anything happened to him but he by himself

nihghaniqats' qeyl dghinih.
he died of old age about him thus they said.

They used to tell a story about Ts'anhghulyaŁ becoming an old man. They always used to have wars with each other, but the Eskimos never did anything to him. So he became a very old man. He was using a cane. He wore a little rabbit parka.

One time he said to the men who were going out hunting, "Let me go with you guys. I want to hear a brown bear's voice once more," he told them.

"All right," they said. He went with them. They were walking around on the mountain with him. And then they saw a brown bear with two cubs. They all saw the brown bear. The cubs were just as big as their mother. All three of them were the same size. When they had come in range of the bears, Ts'anhghulyaŁ told them, "Stay here and watch me."

He put his spear across the small of his back and he held it. He started off towards the bear. He kept walking and walking. He walked right up close to it. Then the bear found out he was there. The mother charged him. When she charged him, he speared her in the throat. When the bear tumbled, he stabbed her again in the side. When he stabbed her, he stuck his spear in the ground, jumped over the bear and stabbed her again in the other side. Next he killed both the cubs too. When he killed the last cub, Ts'anhghulyaŁ fell over right there. The others started walking towards him.

When they came up to him, the bears were lying here and there, and Ts'anhghulyaŁ was kneeling there supported on his elbows. The rabbit parka was lying there by itself. When he got his wind back, he got up.

He told the men with him, "Take a good look, now. Thank you very much. I got to hear the brown bear's voice once more. That was my last wish before anything happens to me. After this I'll never hear his voice again. This is the last time I will kill bears," he told them. So they came home with him.

Nothing ever happened to Ts'anhghulyaŁ, but he died on his own of old age. So they used to say about him.

NANUTSET K'UGHUN NIL T'QUL'AN QEGH NUHQULNIX

Nuqulnegen Antone Evan

Gini k'i htsast'a k'ughun nil
This one another long ago war with each
other
t'qul'an ghu qegh nuhqulnix.
they used to have when about it they used to tell.

Dena'ina gayeh ha'. Ts'ilt'an
Tanaina village there was. One

n'ushen shtunghenix. Ghu t'an ch'q'u
man used to go hunting by boat. As he was going along

q'ench' nutghasdnik. Va nughilghatl'.
back he turned back. On him it got dark.

Q'u nughilghatl' nishnughudnex.
When it got dark he was coming back down river.

Ch'q'u vel tuk'util k'ijeghi t'etni
As he was drifting down owl looting

ki lu vetsah gech'a.
he perceived ahead of him from that direction.

Ghu vel tuk'util ch'q'u qadaydenex
As he was drifting down he was listening to it

idi ela k'ijeghi nch'u vel duhyidilt'an.
and then owl it didn't sound like to him.

Dets'iltena ghini dejaghch'en gu
His bow and arrow in front of him there

dayghildatl' ch'q'u.
he put them in the boat.

Nch'u k'i tak'estsex. Vel nishtuk'util
He wasn't even paddling. He was drifting down

idi eia vetsah gu hvuch'ih
and then ahead of him there outlined in the twilight

tiq'ets' dnaz'ey. Vetsah ey ki lu
leaning tree sticking out. Ahead of him he perceived

qut'an xi lu tiq'ets' dnaz'ey
person he perceived leaning tree sticking out

yus gheli ghu yeq' dezdu ha'. K'ijeghiq'
way out on it he was sitting. Like an owl

t'etni lu. Yeq'a yenidulen lu Dutna nlan..
he was hooting. He understood Eskimo he was.

Detagh'a ghini devanq'ashlaq' duyilggat ch'q'u.
His paddle on top of his canoe he put it.

Ts'ilten ghini k'niq' nuk'ghiyel.
Bow that he put an arrow in it ready to shoot.

Ey gu vegh yeh vel tuk'itdalghel hnuyu
There underneath him he was drifting when

yildex hnuyu hk'u dalen. Tudulen.
he shot him and off he fell. He fell in the water.

Tudulen hnuyu vegh nechch'en ch'etl'teh
He fell in when up above him among the willows

t'anch'q'u qut'ana dleq'delghesh hyan lu
all people started laughing all over

t'anch'q'u.
all of them.

"K'ijeghi tudulen," qetni lu.
"Owl fell in," they said.

Iqech' ghu nch'u k'i tak'estsex.
As before he wasn't even paddling.

Vel nishtuk'util ch'q'u q'u gheli yeghd
He was drifting down and then when a ways

vel nituk'nilghel idi ela hch'a nahnatqan.
he drifted then he speeded up.

Nuhnutqa! Ch'q'u ey ghu hdalts'i ghu
He was going full speed. And where they were
 staying

yutsit niganaghadnik.
down river he came back and landed.

Niganaghadnik hnuyu tunusheldaltuk'
He landed when he ran back up the hill.

ch'q'u "Nal t'qelahnna qil'an! Ughasht'a
and "Warriors there are! Hurry

ndaha nih!" qelni lu. T'anch'q'u
anywhere!" he told them. All

nuhuqitl'in ha'. T'anch'q'u shtuhdalggezsh.
they got dressed. All they went away.

Ts'ilyan nihdalggezsh ndaha nih.
Together they gathered somewhere.

Hnuyu Dutna guna nt'i q'u gheli
Then Eskimos the well almost

yeqush ch'qeghna idi ela Dutna guna
daylight nearly when Eskimos the

nichil ghu hnighi'ey
birch bark community house there standing

ghini qeyniqa tl'ilk'ghalchesh.
the around it they circled.

Qudi ki t'anch'q'u yuyeh lhdnaldag
They all inside they were sleeping

hqidni. Titinitun qech' ghu nichil
they thought. Outside door from there birch bark
house

ghini Dutna guna qeyniqa tl'ilk'ghalchesh.
the Eskimos the around it they circled.

Q'uyehdi nichil ghini hya qendaniyel.
Then birch bark house the they set it
on fire.

Yuyeh hdalts'i t'anch'gheli
Inside they were staying all of them

qa hqidenghaniltlet. Qudi ki
they burned it right down to the ground. Them

t'anch'gheli qevdnich'ehdaniilen hqidni.
all of them we killed them off they thought.

Yeh hnuyu italqun Dena'ina n'ushna
Then in the morning Tanaina men

guna t'anch'q'u ts'il ninuhdalggezh.
the all together they gathered again.

Q'uyehdi italqun qich'ul hnuyu t'anch'q'u
Then at dawn it got light when all of them

n'ushna guna dehts'iltena k'duheł
men the each one's bow and arrows war club

nihdi t'anch'q'u nuqighedneq ch'q'u qech'
etc. all they took and toward
them

k'ehdnal'in.
they started sneaking.

Ghuna ki hch'a naqitdatl' Dutna
The others they started back home Eskimos

guna . Hnuyu n'ushna ghuna t'anch'q'u
the. Then men those all

htl'uyeh ghu qudeɪ qudeɪ ch'q'u
behind them they walked and walked and

htl'i qezdatl'. Qegh'uh hniga
they caught up to them. Way out from around them
them

tl'ilk'ehghalchesh. Hniga tl'ilk'ehghalchesh
they circled. Around them they circled

hnuyu niɪch' ghu qeɪ qudeɪ ch'q'u
when towards each with they moved and then
other them

Dutna guna qit'aqeynizin. Ey ghu niɪ'iqu
Eskimos the they found out. There at one
another

k'ehteldex. Ghu t'get'an
they started shooting arrows. They kept on

t'get'an ch'q'u Dena'ina guna Dutna
and kept on until Tanainas the Eskimos

ghuna t'anch'q'u hnihdaniɪen.
those all they killed them off.

Dach' k'i qegh nuhqulnix.
Thus also about it they used to tell.

La'u k'ughun niɪ t'gul'an ghu.
Always war with each other they used to have.

Htsast'a k'ughun niɪ t'gul'an.
Long ago war with each other they had.

Dach' qegh nuhqulnix.
Thus about it they used to tell.

A STORY OF THE WARS THEY HAD BEFORE OUR TIME

Told by Antone Evan

This is another story they used to tell about the wars they had with each other long ago.

There was a Tanaina village. One man used to go hunting by boat. As he was travelling along, he turned back. It got dark. When it got dark he was coming back down river. As he was going along, he heard an owl hooting somewhere ahead of him. He listened to it as he drifted down, and it didn't sound like an owl to him. He put his bow and arrow in front of him in the boat.

He wasn't even paddling, he was drifting down. Ahead of him, outlined in the twilight, was a leaning tree sticking out. Way out on the end of the tree he saw a person sitting there. The person was hooting like an owl. The hunter realized it was an Eskimo. He put his paddle on top of his canoe. He nocked an arrow ready to shoot. As he was drifting underneath the Eskimo, he shot him and he fell off the tree. He fell into the water. As soon as he fell, a lot of people started laughing in the brush up above him.

"The owl fell in the water," they said.

As before, the hunter wasn't even paddling. He was drifting down and when he had drifted quite a way, he speeded up. He was going full speed. And he came back and landed down river where they were staying.

When he landed, he ran up the hill and told them, "Warriors are here! Hurry, run anywhere!" They all got dressed. They all went away. They gathered together somewhere else.

When it was almost daylight, the Eskimos surrounded the birch bark community house there. The people were all inside sleeping, they thought. From the outside door all the way around the house the Eskimos circled. They set the birch bark house afire. They burned the house where they were all staying

right down to the ground. They killed them all off, they thought.

Then in the morning all the Tanaina men gathered together. At dawn when it got light each man took his bow and arrows and his war club and other weapons and they started sneaking toward the Eskimos.

The Eskimos had started back home. All the Tanaina men walked and walked behind them until they caught up with them. Way out from them they circled around them. They encircled them and had started closing in on them when the Eskimos found out. Then they started shooting arrows at one another. They kept on and kept on until the Tanainas had killed every last one of the Eskimos.

This also they used to tell about those days. They always used to have war with each other. And this is the story they used to tell about it, long ago.

QISHVET' HYE GH NUQULNIX

Nuqulnegen Antone Evan

Gini	k'i	Dena'ine	ezhge'a	ghila'en.
This	another	Tanaina	hero	he was.

Qishvet'	qeyl dghinihen.	Vi'a	qilan.
Qishvet'	the one they called.	His son	there was.

Vi'a	venuyelkugh	Qishvet' ghun.	Yel
His son	was as big as him	Qishvet'.	With him

shtunyu.
he used to hunt.

Yel	nughunex.	Shtunhghenix.
With him	he was canoeing.	They were hunting by canoe.

Yeh ghunex ghunex ch'q'u	ves denltlut
They kept going and going until	a caved-in bank

qeghtsit	htghaznik.	Idi ela	gevtsah
below it	they went by.	And then	ahead of them

ey ki lu	vanq'ashli	yus hughighinik.
there was	a canoe	being pushed out from the bank.

Ey ghu	hch'a ghaninik	hnuyu	qevtl'uyeh
There	it started off	when	behind them

ki q'u.	Hnuyu ch'q'u	Qishvet' gun
another.	Then	Qishvet'

q'a yenidulen.	Dutna	lu ghu
he figured things out.	Eskimos	they apparently were

yenizen.	Niqanchidaschet	idi ela
he thought.	He turned his head around	and then

hqugh qil qeyghanichet.
from where he was they killed him.

Q'uyehdi udi yan yudeq huzyu
Then he alone up there he got to the top

ch'q'uhdi qech' ghizhel lu. "Q'udi gu
and to them he shouted. "This

nha hey htulah ha' hey ch'ihinich'
for you guys winter when it turns at midwinter

gheli n'uyi jaghidaq hqugh da nhegh
right month solstice that time to you guys

tgheshyul. Yighuda shiqu kiyeni'ihzin da.
I'll come. So you guys expect me.

Shnuitu hu'iti'ilyen da t'anch'q'u,"
For me be prepared all of you,"

qelni lu.
he told them.

Q'uyehdi hch'a na'idyu. Nu'idyu
Then he started walking back. He came home

idi ela htl'egh ghu k'ughun qel
when back there war with them

t'ehghil'an ha'. K'elduna dnihdanilen.
they had had. Some they killed.

K'elduna shtunidatl'na yena yan
Some the ones who were out them alone
 hunting

ey hdalts'i ki lu.
there they were staying he perceived.

Qishvet' gun t'qeylni lu "N'u ki
Qishvet' they told him "Your wife

hyighedneq,"
they captured her,"

qeyini lu.
they told him.

"Hhi?"

ni lu.

"Is that so?"

he said.

Q'uyehdi
Then

naqeli it hnuyu
in the fall

vadi
big skin boat

lchin ha'.
he made.

Qighishin
A good job

gheli
really

vadi ghin
skin boat

ylchin ha'.
he made it.

Vech' yideh
On top of it

ghu k'i
there

nih q'u
anyplace

vinli va
water in it

ghetl'it
it would spill

nch'u t'ehyilil.
he didn't fix it thus.

Ven
Lakes

gguya
small

nihdi k'i
and all

t'anch'q'u
everything

dasten
froze

q'u n'uyi
then in month

jaghidaq
solstice

ghu hqugh
at that time

idi ela
then

"Ugha
"Now

qevch'
to them

ch'tunani,"
let's go,"

qelni lu.
he told them.

Qishvet' gun
Qishvet'

nt'i
well

de'uya
his own snowshoes

hdilan.
he had.

De'uya ghini
His snowshoes

veqatl'ah ghu
on the bottoms

ggagga
brown bear

ghiaesha
fangs

qatl'ah
on the bottom

vegh
through them

inalghel ha'.
they were stuck.

Dendalyan
They were sharp

gheli
really

ggagga
brown bear

ghi
teeth

ghini.
those.

Yeghini
Them

daydghildatl' ha'.
he put them in the boat.

Q'uyehdi htaznu.
Then they left.

dehdalts'i.	Ni	ghini	hya	ghaninik.
they lived.	Island	that	to it	they went
				by boat.
Nuti'at	nt'i	qanich'ey.	Ki nih q'u	
On the saltwater	well	it was blowing.	There was no way	

ghu dghiɬkugh gheli ch'q'u ten gheli yan
the whole island ice really only

Dak'ulggux	nch'u t'qit'e'.
Get out of the boat	they couldn't.

niqaz'u	ni	ghin.	De'uya ghini
was all around	island	that.	His snowshoes

Yi gheli yan lu. Ts'ilt'en nih k'i
That really only. Bow and arrow either

Q'uyehdi t'qelni lu, "Ey gu la'u
Then he told them. "Here always

shiqu hdnil'il. Ey gu nqeghdeqch'
for me you keep looking. There from up above you guys

nuyeshdyu da nhech' tgheshzhel yida,"
when I come back at you guys I'll holler,"

qelni lu.
he told them.

Ey gu daghilggech' nch'u hyegh nighesdnex
There close they can't move the boat
close to it
tuvugh ghu. Tagh'i eia qeyk'uch'
shore there. Oar with away from the edge

hyiten nch'u qevel venish
they hold it not with them up against it

tuytu't'eh ghuda.
so it wouldn't bump the ice that way.

Yudeq ghu qevel nintudelyax.
Way up with them it goes up with the swells.

Ghu q'u ki q'u yudeq qevel nintudalyu
The next time up with them it went up with a
big wave

hnuyu vadi ghin yedegh gheltlet.
when boat the from it he jumped.

Yedegh gheltlet ch'q'u ten ch'ixa
From it he jumped and glare ice

qilan ghu ey lu hdenghitl'i'.
there was there there he stuck without sliding.

Hnuyu ush ghin at hch'a sheidaniltuk'.
Then snowshoes in he started running.

Deggech' nilk'ech' ghu nusheidultex.
Up the hill zig-zagging he kept running.

Ghu t'an ch'q'u unch' qisheidghiltuk'.
He kept on until over the hill he ran.

Ey ghu tets qilan ha' ey ghu qayeh
That night: there was there village

qilan ghu idi ela Dutna ggazhi
there was where then Eskimo community house

ki lu hnighi'u. Dghil'kugh gheli.
he could see the outline of it. It was big really.

Qegh nduk'nal'in.
To the house he sneaked in.

Qegh nduk'nal'in idi ela nt'i
To the house he sneaked in and then well

Dutna guna t'anch'q'u idnaldaq ha'
Eskimos the all they were and
sleeping

k'ehdenlghiq'. Yusdi vuna idazq'en ghu
they were snoring. By the fireplace where the fire
was burning

k'ezhax yeh dazdli shla desdghil'datl'.
shavings there were shavings little he put them in
the fire.

Hk'iljay. De'u yiqu hni'l'an.
He illuminated the place. His own for her he was looking.
wife

Idi ela ventudeq ey ki lu
And then at the center of the back wall there he per-
ceived

de'u ghun hnuyididni. Ey lu n'ushen
his own wife he recognized her. There a man

ey vegh ztan ki lu.
there by her was lying he perceived.

Ya n'ushen lu ve'u ghun hnuyu
On her he sneaked his wife and then

ts'anizet,
she woke up.

"Niqu tayeshyu nhegh neshyu shida.
"After you I came to you guys I came.

Nuhuntl'i ha' tinilggux," yełni lu.
Dress up and go outdoors," he told her.

Ve'u gun nuhustl'in ha' ti'ilgguk.
His wife she got dressed and she went outdoors.

Qishvet' gun k'ezhax desnudghildatl'.
Qishvet' shavings he put more on the fire.

Ve'u ghin ti'ilgguk hnuyu ey gu yegh
His wife she went out when there by her

ita'en ghun ya niłchet lu. Ya
the one who was lying on him he pushed. On him

niłchet hnuyu Dutna gun nik'utsidilen.
he pushed when Eskimo the he lifted up his
head quickly.

"Qishvet' nhegh niyu. Ts'anizit,"
"Qishvet' to you guys he came. Wake up,"

yełni lu. Dutna gun deggentaltlet
he told him. Eskimo the he started to jump up

hnuyu k'duhel ghini ela yenalt'eh.
when war club with he hit him in the head.

Yuyeh ghu t'anch'q'u qa łchet ghu.
Inside there all of them on them he pushed one
by one.

Ts'agezet hnuyu qinełt'uh.
They wake up as soon as he clubs each one on the head.

Iqech' ghu t'qel'an t'qel'an ch'q'u
Thus he kept on and kept on until

niłghu ey nughelgguk.
he made a complete circle.

Nutihna Two people	ts'ilt'an one	n'ushen man	ts'ilt'an one
degkh'isen woman	yena them	yan only	nch'u nda t'qilil. he didn't bother them.
Yuyeh ghu Inside	t'anch'gheliq'u every last one	k'qil'il. he killed.	Yena Those
nutihna two people	ghuna those	t'qelni lu, he told them,	"Shegh "About me
nuhtilnix. you guys tell the story.	'Qishvet' 'Qishvet'	hey winter	qilan ha' there was
niyu ha'. he came.	Iqech' dach' In that way	dnanluq,' he did that to us'	sheł about me
dihnih," you guys say that,"	qelni lu. he told them.		
Hq'u Then	tinu'ilgguk he went back out	ch'q'u and	ey ghu there
denduq'ch' from over the hill	nulgguk. he came back.	De'uya ghini His snowshoes	
yenuqadghildatl'. he put on.	Q'uyehdi Then	qech' at them	ghizhel he hollered,
"Tuvugh "Beach	qech' toward	qananıggat," move the boat in,"	qelni lu. he told them.
De'u ghun His wife	q'ach'ah under his arm	niyilghel. he put her.	Ch'q'u Then
tuvugh beach	qech' towards	vadi boat	ghin the
		ınintudalyu. a big wave brought it in.	

Hnuyu ey ghu qiztel ch'q'u vadi yel
Then there he jumped and boat with her

a nagheltlet.
in it he jumped again.

Hk'u nutasdnu. Qel nughudnex
They left for home. With them he kept on going

qel nughudnex ch'q'u deqayeh
with them he kept on going until his own village

gheli ghu nu'idyu.
very there he came back.

Yen k'i Dena'ina ezhge'a ghila' ha'.
Him too Tanaina hero he was.

Qishvet' qeyl dghinihen. K'elqit
Qishvet' the one they used to call. He used to eat

ghuhdi ts'elq'i hal gheli vava ghin
when one bundle whole dry fish

sudelzex. Ts'elq'i hal lqit ghu
he ate. One bundle he ate when

nch'u k'elqit hnuyu ts'elq'i nli' hqugh.
he never ate during one week that much.

Dach' qeyl dghinihen Dena'ina
Thus about him the one they used to say Tanaina

ezhge'a ghila'en yen k'i.
hero he was he also.

THE STORY OF QISHVET'

Told by Antone Evan

This man was another Tanaina hero. They called him Qishvet'. He had a son. His son was as big as he was. He used to hunt with him.

He was out canoeing with him. They were hunting by canoe. They kept on going and going until they went by below a caved-in bank. Then ahead of them he saw a canoe being pushed out from the bank. As it started off another appeared behind them. Then Qishvet' realized what was happening. He figured they were Eskimos. When he turned his head around, the canoes had surrounded them from behind.

Then he said to his son, "Try the best you can -- be quick -- up this way," he told him. He landed really fast with him and they started running up the hill. Then the Eskimos landed where they had been and were shooting arrows at them.

They ran far up. When they were halfway up, all of a sudden, they shot his son. He rolled back down. Qishvet' himself kept running up. He kept on until he had run out of their range. He ran up where the arrows couldn't reach him.

As he watched from where he was, they killed his son before his very eyes.

Then he got to the top by himself and he hollered at them, "This is for you guys. When it turns winter, at midwinter month, right at the solstice, I'll come to you guys. So you expect me. Be prepared for me, all of you," he told them.

Then he started walking back. When he came home, his people back there had had a battle with the Eskimos. Some the Eskimos had killed. Only those who had been out hunting remained.

They told Qishvet', "They captured your wife."

"Is that so?" he said.

So in the fall Qishvet' made a big skin boat. He really did a good job on it. He fixed it on top so water couldn't get in anyplace.

When the small lakes and everything else were all frozen, at the time of the winter solstice, he told them, "Now let's go to them."

Qishvet' had his own special snowshoes. On the bottom of his snowshoes he had driven brown bear fangs through the frame. Those brown bear teeth were really sharp. He put those snowshoes in the boat.

Then they left. They kept going and going in the boat. The Eskimos lived in a village on an island. The Tanainas rowed up to the island. It was blowing on the salt water. There was no way they could land, there was no place. Around the whole island there was only glare ice. They couldn't get out of the boat. There was only ice, glare ice all around that island. Qishvet' put on his snowshoes. He tied his war club on his waist. That's all he took. He didn't even take his bow and arrow.

Then he told them, "You keep looking for me all the time here. When I come back I'll holler at you guys from above there," he told them.

They couldn't get the boat close to the beach there. They held it away from the edge with an oar so it wouldn't bump the ice.

The boat goes way up with the swells. The next time it went up with a big wave, Qishvet' jumped from it.

He jumped out, and where there was glare ice he stuck without sliding. Then he started running in his snowshoes. He ran zig-zagging up the hill. He kept on until he ran over the top of the hill.

That night at the village he could see the outline of the Eskimo community house. It was really big. He sneaked into the house.

When he sneaked into the house, all the Eskimos were sleeping and snoring. By the fireplace where the fire was burning there were little shavings. He put them in the fire. He illuminated the place. He was looking for his own wife. And then he recognized her at the center of the back wall. There was a man lying by her there.

He pushed on his wife and she woke up.

"I came after you. I found you guys. Get dressed and go outdoors," he told her.

His wife got dressed and went outdoors. 'Qishvet' put more shavings on the fire. After his wife had gone out he pushed on the man who had been lying by her. After he pushed on him, the Eskimo lifted his head quickly.

"Qishvet' has come to you. Wake up," he told him. When the Eskimo started to jump up, he hit him in the head with his war club.

He woke all of them inside there, one by one. As soon as they woke up, he clubbed each one on the head. Thus he kept on and kept on until he made a complete circle.

He left alone only two people, a man and a woman. Inside he killed every last one. He told those two people, "Tell the story about me. 'When it was winter, Qishvet' came to us. In that way he killed us off,' you guys say that about me," he told them.

Then he went back out and came back from over the hill. He put on his snowshoes. Then he hollered at them, "Move the boat in toward the beach." He put his wife under his arm. Then when a big wave brought the boat in towards the beach, he jumped from there and landed back in the boat with her.

They left for home. He kept on travelling with them until he came back to his very own village.

He too was a Tanaina hero. They called him Qishvet'. When he ate, he used to eat one whole bundle of dry fish. When he ate one bundle, he never ate for a week afterward. That's what they used to say about him. He too was a Tanaina hero.

THE TANAINA ALPHABET

Vowels

i	ni	'island'	u	ush	'snowshoes'
a	aɬ	'deadfall'	e	el	'spruce boughs'

Consonants

b	bivak	'homebrew'	q	qenq'a	'house'
ch	chu	'beaver'	q'	q'in	'fish eggs'
ch'	ch'da	'blanket'	s	sel	'mukluks'
d	daz'i	'fire'	sh	shani	'summertime'
dl	dlin'a	'mouse'	t	ten	'ice'
dz	k'kidza	'feathers'	t'	t'ash	'charcoal'
g	giga	'berries'	tl	tleg	'oil'
gg	ggagga	'brown bear'	tl'	tl'il	'rope'
gh	gheljayi	'moon'	ts	k'tsen	'meat'
h	hetl	'sled'	ts'	ts'ah	'sinew'
hh	ahhanya	'squaw duck'	v	vava	'dryfish'
j	jija	'duck'	x	chix	'paint'
k	kił	'boy'	y	yashik	'box'
k'	k'etnu	'river'	y	nch'u	'I'm not
l	ala	'older brother'		k'ishay	whittling'
ł	łik'a	'dog'	z	izin	'gun'
m	minłi	'water'	zh	k'izhagi	'knife'
n	nuti	'salt'	'	Dena'ina	'Tanaina people'

The Tanaina consonants form a system, which can be displayed:

b	d	dl	dz	j	g	gg	'
	t	tl	ts	ch	k	q	
	t'	tl'	ts'	ch'	k'	q'	
		i	s	sh	x	h	hh
v		l	z	zh	y	gh	
m	n			y			